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RURAL DISTRICT OF ROMNEY MARSH, KENT

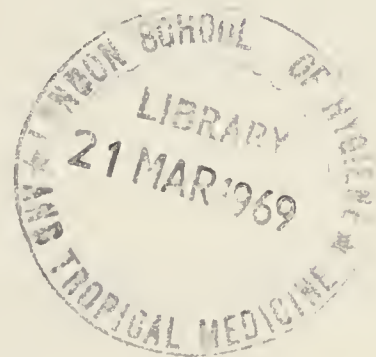
ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1967





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ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and  
Public Health Inspector for the Year 1967

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1967.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 5,500 which was an increase of 240 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 84 (41 M. 43 F.) which was a decrease of 1 from that of the previous year and the corresponding crude birth rate was 15.3; when adjusted, however, by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with other Districts the crude rate becomes 20.81 and was higher than that of 17.2 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

One stillbirth was registered and the stillbirth rate was 12.0 which was lower than that of 14.8 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Two infant deaths were registered and the infantile mortality rate was accordingly 24.0 compared with that of 18.0 for England and Wales.

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations and the most important maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion, and signifies the high standard of modern obstetric practice.

Total Deaths and Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 53 (31 M. 22 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 9.6; after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and affords comparison with other Districts, the adjusted rate was 8.64 and was lower than that of 11.2 for England and Wales.

The majority of the deaths were amongst the aged from natural causes, namely, Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System; of these there were 31.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 11 of those deaths in the following age-groups; 2 between 55 - 64; 6 between 65 - 74; 3 over 75 years. Although the chief cause is still obscure, the majority of deaths occur amongst the elderly or aged and it would seem that a degenerative process is a causal factor, although this might not explain the cause of deaths in early life.



Cancer was the cause of 10 deaths, in the following age-groups; 2 between 45 - 54 years; 2 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 and 5 over 75 years. As cancer can be treated with success if a diagnosis is made before the disease is too advanced, it is reasonable to assume that patients seek medical examination too late.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus was the cause of 2 (1 M. 1 F.) deaths, both patients being in the 45 - 54 age group. The usual pattern is for deaths to occur in earlier age-groups than most other forms of Cancer, and having regard to the fact that there is no atmospheric pollution in the District, it would seem that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a precipitating factor amongst those who are predisposed to the disease, keeping in mind that the majority of those who have smoked all their adult lives have died from other natural causes. Cancer of the breast caused one death in the 55 - 64 age group.

Amongst the other causes of death there was no exceptional mortality. There was no death due to Infectious Disease.

#### Measles

Eighty cases were notified. This infection 'per se' is not serious, and its formerly dangerous complications are becoming less frequent and if they do occur, are treated successfully by the Antibiotics, excepting Acute Encephalitis which is very rare. As stated in previous reports, it is equivocal whether this infection should be statutorily notifiable, as during outbreaks Practitioners who are otherwise fully engaged, have little time to make these notifications and Office Staffs are obliged to waste their time in the registration and disbursement of notification fees.

#### Scarlet Fever

Five cases were notified. In its present phase, this infection is mild and its formerly serious complications are infrequent; if any do occur, treatment by the Antibiotics is usually successful.

#### Dysentery (Shigella Sonnei)

One case of this bowel infection was notified, but there are probably many more throughout the area who are not notified as the infection which causes diarrhoea for several days, is usually mild; in consequence many patients do not consult their family Doctors, and there is little doubt that the carrier state is widespread.

#### Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Four cases of this illness were notified. Including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there was one death and the patient was over 75 years of age.

#### Tuberculosis

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified and there were no deaths.

In conclusion, I would state that the Public Health of the District was very satisfactory throughout the year and I would take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the Department and also the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,  
14, Church Road,  
Ashford, Kent.

Tel. No. Ashford 24411

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1967

Area:- 31,031 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	5,500
<u>Number of Inhabited Houses According to the</u> <u>Rate Books</u>	...	...	2,309
<u>Rateable Value</u>	...	...	£191,554
<u>Sum Represented by a Penny Rate</u>	...	...	£765

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Romney Marsh Rural District is essentially agricultural in character and interests but, as part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, there is considerable catering for the large numbers of holiday-makers and weekend trippers who are attracted to the district, and associated there are large holiday-camps and licensed caravan sites. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Romney Marsh Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	84	41	43	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.3 (Adjusted Rate 20.81)	17.2
(a) Legitimate	78	40	38			
(b) Illegitimate	6	1	5			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	12.0	14.8
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>Total live and still- births</u>	85	42	43			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	53	31	22	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	9.6 (Adjusted Rate 8.64)	11.2
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil	Not Available
6. <u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	24.0	18.3
(a) Legitimate	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.64	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	
7. <u>Perinatal Mortality (i.e. Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week of age)</u>	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	24.0	25.4
(a) Legitimate	2	2	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. <u>Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births</u>					1.18%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...				10	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...				-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...				-	
Deaths from Measles	...				-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	...	80
Scarlet Fever	...	5
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	5
Dysentery	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1967

ALL CAUSES				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
				31	22
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	4	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	2	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	9	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	-	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	6	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	-
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	1	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1967

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	5	3
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from this disease



IMMUNISATION

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Primary</u>			<u>Reinforcing</u>		
	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph/Tet.</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph/Tet</u>
1967	14	21	-	-	-	-
1966	44	28	1	-	1	1
1965	2	-	-	-	18	2
1964	2	2	-	-	8	-
1963	-	-	-	1	-	3
1960 - 1962	2	-	-	25	8	28
1951 - 1959	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	65	51	1	26	35	35

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

<u>PRIMARY VACCINATION</u>	<u>RE-VACCINATION</u>
<u>1 YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS</u>
44	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The quantity of water supplied to the area is adequate and none of the supplies is plumbo solvent.

(A) Examination of Water Supplies during the year

	<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>			<u>Chemical Examination</u>		
	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Not Satis- factory</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Not Satis- factory</u>
Statutory supply undertakings	5	5	-	-	-	-
Private sources piped to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private sources	-	-	-	-	-	-

(B) (i) Number of dwellings not supplied by public water mains or other adequate piped supplies ... 2

(ii) Number of dwellings in the area ... 2,393

(C) There were no extension to water mains during the year and no action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No additions were made during the year to the sewerage disposal system. Progress with the proposed extensions is very slow and the need becomes more urgent.

FOOD (INCLUDING ICE CREAM AND MILK) AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

(i) (a) the number of food premises in the area is ... 139

(b) the number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955

(i) Retailers of Ice Cream ... 34

(ii) Preparation and manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Foods etc. ... 5

(c) the number of inspections of registered food premises 145

(d) the method of disposal of condemned food - collected and disposed of to refuse tips.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Number of inspections of:-

Butchers and meat products manufacturers	...	...	10
Catering Establishment and Clubs	...	...	60
Fish (including fried)	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	7
Stalls, Itinerant Vendors and delivery vans	...	...	14
All other Food Premises	...	...	49



Number of Informal (including Verbal) Notices Served (Food and Drugs Act - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955)	...	16
Number of Food Premises improved as a result of notices served	...	14

Inspection of Food and Food-preparing premises

(A) Brief particulars of any action taken, including inspections of meat and other foods, slaughterhouses, stalls, vehicles and food-preparing places:-

A general improvement in the hygiene of food preparing premises is apparent.

(B) Observations on manufacture and sale of ice-cream in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1959.

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the area.

Number of samples of Ice Cream taken for bacteriological examination during the year and results obtained.

	<u>Samples</u>	<u>Grades</u>			
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Sold loose	2	-	-	2	-
Wrapped or Part Wrapped	7	3	4	-	-

(ii) Milk and Dairies

(1) Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 (Part 111)  
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 (Part 111)

No. of registered distributors	...	...	15
No. of registered dairies	...	...	Nil

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There was one successful prosecution for the sale by a retailer of a mouldy meat pie.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. <u>Houses demolished</u>			
In Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1957)	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under (Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957)	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	12	-	-



B. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>		<u>Number</u>
(5) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957		22
(6) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957		-
(7) Partsof buildings closed under (Section 18, Housing Act, 1957)		-
C. <u>Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied</u>		
	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(8) After informal action by local authority	15	-
(9) After formal notice under:-		
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	
(10) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	
D. <u>Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)</u>		
<u>Position at end of year</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(11) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil	
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	
(12) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	Nil	
E. <u>Purchase of Houses by agreement</u>		
	<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(13) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased in the year.	Nil	Nil

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS

GRANTS

Five applications were received for Discretionary Grants to five dwellings, total approved Grant being £1,752. Approved works valued at £4,302.

Three applications were received for Standard Grants, total approved Grants being £504. Approved works costing £1,226.

INSPECTIONS - Summary of inspections made:-

Public Health Act, 1936 and Housing Act, 1957

Number of inspections of dwellings re repairs	...	...	52
Number of dwellings made fit	...	...	15
Number of inspections for purposes of Sections 16/17 Housing Act, (Demolition and Closing Orders)			47
Number of inspections of clearance areas	...	...	Nil
Number of inspections for general survey and assessment		...	98

INSPECTIONS - Summary of inspections made:- (Contd)

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958  
Housing Subsidies and Standard Grant

Number of inspections in connection with Improvement Grants ... 6  
Number of inspections in connection with Standard Grants ... 4

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Rents Act, 1957

Number of inspections re Certificates of Disrepair ... Nil  
Number of inspections re Certificates as to Remedying of Defects ... Nil

Housing (general)

Number of inspections re housing applications ... 102

Public Health Act

Number of inspections re:-

Tents, Vans and Sheds ... 94  
Aged and Infirm Persons ... 8  
Vermin ... Nil  
Dirty Houses ... 4  
Offensive accumulations and offensive odours ... 35  
Nuisance from Keeping of Animals ... 16

<u>NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
Public Health Acts	14	2
Housing Acts	Nil	Nil

Dustbins renewed ... 12

SWIMMING POOLS

Number in District ... 5  
Samples taken for Bacteriological Analysis ... 12  
Unsatisfactory ... Nil

During the year a comparator for determining chlorine content was purchased. Seventeen examinations were made and advice given on how to maintain a satisfactory chlorine content in the pools.

There was a serious infestation by flies (Diptera Coelopidae) at a heated covered pool in the autumn.

Poultry Inspection

There are two farm premises where large scale killing of turkeys, plucked but not eviscerated, takes place prior to Christmas. A total of 2,300 birds were killed. Eight inspections were made and twenty-five carcasses were rejected.

Clean Air Act, 1956

One application was made for approval of plans under this Act for a large oil-fired boiler.



## INSPECTIONS (Contd.)

### Nuisances

A serious nuisance from smell affecting a large number of residents arose during the year, probably caused by salt water killing fresh water vegetations in a large ditch. At the time of writing the Kent River Authority who control this ditch, whilst denying liability have agreed to take remedial action to prevent its recurrence but to date have not carried out any works.

### Guest Houses

A survey of all known Guest Houses and Hotels was made.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Forty-two general inspections were made and eighteen follow-up visits. There are sixty registered premises.

### Shops Act, 1950

Thirty-three visits were made under this Act.

No contraventions were found but no inspections were made at weekends or late evenings, to ascertain whether or not trading in certain commodities occurs outside the prescribed periods.

### Pesticides - Chemical Compounds used in Agriculture and Food Storage

Six visits to farms were made concerning the safe storage and disposal of containers.

### Agriculture (Safety and Welfare Provisions) Act 1956

Four visits were made under this Act and farmers asked to provide sanitary facilities for field workers.

### General

A total of 1,282 visits were made during the year. These include visits made whilst deputising for the Council's Surveyor (post vacant during January) and the Surveyor/Public Health Inspector of New Romney Borough and other extraneous duties connected with Petroleum Storage, Pet Animal Act, Car Parks, etc.

### HOUSING

(i)	No of families on Council's waiting list at 31-12-67	...	143
(ii)	No. of Council houses built during the year	...	45
(iii)	No. of Private houses built during year	...	55

### HOLIDAY CAMPS

<u>Name and Address of Holiday Camps</u>	<u>No. accommodated</u>
Beach Holiday Centre, Dymchurch	950 (including staff)
Silver Waves, Dymchurch	125 ( " " )
St. Mary's Bay Holiday Camp, St. Mary's Bay	1,250( " " )
Golden Sands, St. Mary's Bay	400



## CARAVAN SITES

<u>Names and addresses of Licensed Sites</u>	<u>No. of Caravans on each site</u>
Eastfleet Caravan Site, Dymchurch	120
Apps Caravan Site, St. Mary's Bay	50
Pipers Caravan Site, Dymchurch	450
Warren Dairy Farm, New Romney	25
Willow Caravan Site, Burmarsh	7

## Camping Sites

Warren Dairy Farm, New Romney	4 acres tents
Springfields, Brookland	4 " "
Daleacres, Burmarsh	10 acres (limited 100 tents)

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Number of cesspools	...	...	968
Number of loads	...	...	1,226

A full service to all unsewered parts of the district has been maintained.

## DRAINAGE

Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is	2,309
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	1,668
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	739
Number of houses connected to cesspools	739
Number of houses with pail closets	Unknown

## REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse throughout the whole district has been continued. This service includes the removal of large items such as furniture, cookers, etc. During the year seven derelict cars were removed and as estimated 90 were received at the tip.

## DISINFESTATION

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

	<u>Bugs</u>	<u>Fleas</u>	<u>Cockroaches</u>
Council houses	-	-	4
Other houses	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health  
(including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Reg- ister	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	8	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	6	6	2	-
TOTAL	18	14	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork - Section 110 and 111

There are no Outworkers employed in the District.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non- Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
<u>PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS</u>		
i. Number of properties in district	2,629	256
ii. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	486	79
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	99	35
(ii) Mice	13	4
iii. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	21	10
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	Nil	2
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil



